

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 OMB-01 CIEP-03 EB-11 COME-00

DRC-01 /138 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4423

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR

USDEL MBFR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MASS, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH LABOR PARTY COUNCIL ACTIONS RE F104 REPLACEMENT

REF: THE HAGUE 4676 (NOTAL)

1. THE PARTY COUNCIL OF PVDA (LABOR) MEETING IN AMSTERDAM
SEPTEMBER 21 ADOPTED, INTER ALIA, A RESOLUTION URGING
GON NOT RPT NOT TO CHOOSE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT AS
REPLACEMENT FOR F-104S BECAUSE AMERICAN MONEY USED TO
BRING DOWN ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. PARTY COUNCIL IS 120
MEMBER BODY WHICH MEETS SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR AND
GENERALLY CONSIDERS NON-POLITICAL MATTERS. ITS RESOLU-
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TIONS ARE NOT BINDING ON PARTY GROUP IN PARLIAMENT

NOR ON GOVERNMENT.

2. LABOR PARTY COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS REGARDING DUTCH DEFENSE PLANS FOR COMING YEARS. GON URGED TO SELECT A CHEAPER REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT THAN THOSE CURRENTLY BEING OFFERED BY US, FRANCE AND SWEDEN. ANOTHER RESOLUTION ASKED THAT REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT NOT BE CAPABLE OF UTILIZING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED TWO RESOLUTIONS REGARDING TROOP REDUCTIONS. ONE WOULD HAVE GON CONTINUE PRESENT TROOP LEVELS THROUGH MID-YEAR 1975 AND THEN TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED TROOP REDUCTIONS REGARDLESS OF STATUS MBFR TALKS. SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY RESOLUTION THIS SUBJECT ALSO PASSED WHICH CALLS UPON GON TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION STATUS OF EAST-WEST TALKS BEFORE TROOP REDUCTIONS MADE.

3. LEADERSHIP OF LABOR PARTY HAS STRESSED FACT THAT COUNCIL MEETING ONLY HAD ADVISORY STATUS AND WOULD NOT CHANGE CURRENT GOVERNMENT DEFENSE PLANS. PIET DANKERT (LABOR PARTY), CHAIRMAN OF SECOND CHAMBER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, TOLD POL CONUS SEPT. 23 THAT "WE WON'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT" ACTIONS TAKEN BY LABOR PARTY COUNCIL OVER WEEKEND. DANKERT WENT ON TO SAY THAT "WE WON'T BLOW UP 4-NATION STEERING COMMITTEE", THOUGH HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THE 4-NATION GROUP MIGHT WELL HAVE PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN IN REACHING CLEAR-CUT DECISION.

4. ASSISTANT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF LABOR PARTY TOLD EMBOFF THAT UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT TAKE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR THE F-104S TOO SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING IN THE PARTY AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE OF RECENT REVELATIONS REGARDING THE CIA'S ROLE IN THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE. SOURCE SAID HE HAD BEEN IN A MEETING WITH MINISTER VREDELING AND OTHER LABOR PARTY DEFENSE EXPERTS SEPT. 23 AND THAT IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION WOULD NOT PREVENT THE GON FROM PURCHASING AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT. THE DECISION WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPEND UPON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FACTORS EXISTING AT THE TIME THE CHOICE IS MADE.

5. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED HOWEVER THAT CATHOLIC PEOPLES PARTY (KVP) IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE VOTES TAKEN REGARDING DEFENSE BY LABOR PARTY COUNCIL. KVP PARLIAMENTARY LEADER ANDRIESSEN RECEIVED A ONE-HOUR PHONE CALL SUNDAY NIGHT FROM LABOR PARTY FRACTIE LEADER

VAN THIJN. VAN THIJN HAD TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM THAT THE RESULTS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WERE NOT REALLY SO SERIOUS AND WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT UPON THE FRACTIE OR THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. WE ARE TOLD ANDRIESSEN WAS NOT CONVINCED. THE KVP DOES NOT GO ALONG WITH LABOR PARTY LEADERS' DISCLAIMER TO THE EFFECT THAT THE COUNCIL IS ONLY ADVISORY. THE KVP THINKS THAT COUNCIL'S ACTIONS REPRESENTED SERIOUS TURN OF EVENTS FOR LABOR PARTY AND PLANS TO INTRODUCE THE SUBJECT OF THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS INTO THE DEFENSE DEBATE WHICH WILL BEGIN SEPT. 24.

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